

The Broad Ax

HEW TO THE LINE.

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The Second Annual Meeting of the Niagara Movement

At Harper's Ferry, West Virginia

The Republican Party Scored for Failing to Enforce the 14th Amendment—A Ringing Address Issued to the Country In Which It Is Urged That the Ballot Must Be Restored to the Afro-Americans—Women Admitted Into the Movement.

The Niagara Movement convened at Harper's Ferry, West Va., the past week and its sessions were well attended, some of the most prominent men and women of the race being present. One of the speakers in addressing those who were under the sound of his voice, declared that "God had sent John Brown to Harper's Ferry to become a traitor to the government in order that he might be true to the slave." This same speaker in referring to the political status of the Negro in certain sections of this country, exclaimed:

"The present occupant of the white house has been absolutely silent on the question of the enforcement of the fifteenth amendment; while his secretary of war has admitted the violation of the constitution, he has recently in a notable address openly condoned if not tacitly indorsed it, Secretary Taft, speaking for the president, chides us by saying that the Negroes are political children; that they have shown their incapacity to maintain their political rights."

"It is true that the Negro had a childlike faith in the Republican party, believing that it would administer the sacred trust which the fortunes of war and the constitution had imposed upon it and that it would not use him like a gambler's stake in the game of politics."

"Thank God, at last the scales are falling from the Negro's eyes. He is being disillusioned by the acts of a Republican congress, the speeches of members of a Republican cabinet and the silence of a Republican president. He should not hesitate to repudiate his former friends who have betrayed him nor refuse to fraternize with former enemies who are willing to give him aid. While he remains a political issue he must insist upon making his power felt and his rights respected."

Other speakers gave expression to the same sentiments, and on winding up its sessions Sunday, the following address was issued to the world, which plainly reminds the so-called Christians belonging to the opposite race in the United States, who profess to have the love of their hand-made God encircled in their hearts, and who claim to be the only true followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, that they have in the past and are at the present time falling far short in dealing half-way justly with those composing the Afro-American race.

The address is as follows:

"The men of the Niagara movement coming from the toll of the year's hard work and pausing a moment from the earning of their daily bread turn toward the nation and again ask in the name of ten million the privilege of a hearing. In the past year the work of the Negro hater has flourished in the land. Step by step the defenders of the rights of American citizens have retreated. The work of stealing the black man's ballot has progressed and the fifty and more representatives of stolen votes still sit in the nation's capital. Discrimination in travel and public accommodation has so spread that some of our

weaker brethren are actually afraid to thunder against color discrimination as such and are simply whispering for ordinary decency.

"Against this the Niagara Movement eternally protests. We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone but for all true Americans. It is a fight for ideals, lest this, our common fatherland, false to its founding, become in truth the land of the thief and the home of the Slave—a by-word and a hissing among the nations for its sounding pretensions and pitiful accomplishment."

Never before in the modern age has a great and civilized folk threatened to adopt so cowardly a creed in the treatment of its fellow-citizens born and bred on its soil. Stripped of verbiage and subterfuge and in its naked nastiness the new American creed says: Fear to let Black men even try to rise lest they become the equals of the white. And this is the land that professes to follow Jesus Christ. The blasphemy of such a course is only matched by its cowardice.

"In detail our demands are clear and unequivocal. First, we would vote; with the right to vote goes everything: Freedom, manhood, the honor of your wives, the chastity of your daughters, the right to work, and the chance to rise, and let no man listen to those who deny this."

"We want full manhood suffrage, and we want it now, henceforth and forever."

"Second. We want discrimination in public accommodation to cease. Separation in railway and street cars, based simply on race and color, is un-American, undemocratic, and silly. We protest against all such discrimination."

"Third. We claim the right of freedom to walk, talk, and be with them that wish to be with us. No man has a right to choose another man's friends, and to attempt to do so is an impudent interference with the most fundamental human privilege."

"Fourth. We want the laws enforced against rich as well as poor; against Capitalist as well as Laborer; against white as well as Black. We are not more lawless than the white race, we are more often arrested, convicted and mobbed. We want justice even for criminals and outlaws. We want Congress to take charge of Congressional elections. We want the Fourteenth amendment carried out to the letter and every State disfranchised in Congress which attempts to disfranchise its rightful voters. We want the Fifteenth amendment enforced and No State allowed to base its franchise simply on Color."

"The failure of the Republican party in Congress at the session just closed to redeem its pledge of 1904 with reference to suffrage conditions at the South seems a plain, deliberate,

and premeditated breach of promise, and stamps that party as guilty of obtaining votes under false pretense."

"Fifth. We want our children educated. The school system in the country districts of the South is a disgrace and in a few towns and cities are the Negro schools what they ought to be. We want the national government to step in and wipe out illiteracy in the South. Either the United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States."

"And when we call for education we mean real education. We believe in work. We ourselves are workers, but work is not necessarily education. Education is the development of power and ideal. We want our children trained as intelligent human beings should be, and we will fight for all time against any proposal to educate Black boys and girls simply as servants and underlings, or simply for the use of other people. They have a right to know, to think, to aspire."

"These are some of the chief things which we want. How shall we get them? By voting where we may vote, by persistent, unceasing agitation; by hammering at the truth, by sacrifice and work."

"We do not believe in violence, neither in the despised violence of the raid nor the lauded violence of the soldier, nor the barbarous violence of the mob, but we do believe in John Brown, in that incarnate spirit of justice, that hatred of a lie, that willingness to sacrifice money, reputation, and life itself on the altar of right. And here on the scene of John Brown's martyrdom we reconsecrate ourselves, our honor, our property to the final emancipation of the race which John Brown died to make free."

"Our enemies, triumphant for the present, are fighting the stars in their courses. Justice and humanity must prevail. We live to tell these dark brothers of ours—scattered in counsel, wavering and weak—that no bribe of money or notoriety, no promise of wealth or fame, is worth the surrender of a people's manhood or the loss of a man's self-respect. We refuse to surrender the leadership of this race to cowards and trucklers. We are men; we will be treated as men. On this rock we have planted our banners. We will never give up, though the trump of doom find us still fighting."

"And we shall win. The past promised it, the present foretells it. Thank God for John Brown! Thank God for Garrison and Douglass! Sumner and Phillips, Nat Turner and Robert Gould Shaw, and all the hallowed dead who died for freedom! Thank God for all those to-day, few though their voices be, who have not forgotten the divine brotherhood of all men white and Black, rich and poor, fortunate and unfortunate."

"We appeal to the young men and women of this nation to those whose nostrils are not yet befouled by greed and snobbery and racial narrowness: Stand up for the right, prove yourselves worthy of your heritage and whether born north or south dare to treat men as men. Cannot the nation that has absorbed ten million

foreigners into its political life without catastrophe absorb ten million Negro Americans into that same political life at less cost than their unjust and illegal exclusion will involve?

"Courage brothers! The battle for humanity is not lost or losing. All across the skies sit signs of promise. The Slave is raising in his might, the yellow millions are tasting liberty the black Africans are writhing toward the light, and everywhere the laborer, with ballot in his hand, is voting open the gates of Opportunity and Peace. The morning breaks over blood-stained hills. We must not falter, we may not shrink. Above are the everlasting stars."

"Harper's Ferry, W. Va., August 16-19, 1906."

The above address is full of the right sentiments, and what the Negro must first refrain from doing, and that is to absolutely become or to remain the cringing and servile slave of any political party. Then let the Negroes in all sections of this country band themselves together as one man, and be willing to make every kind of sacrifice, either in time or money for the purpose of assisting to restore the ballot to those who have been deprived of it under one pretext or another in most of the Southern states."

For without the ballot in the hands of the Negro to protect his civil and political rights he will continue to be looked upon with scorn and contempt by the governor of the State wherein he resides, Congressmen and all other city and county officials including the policeman on his beat on up to the President of the United States, and all of the wealth the Negro may accumulate is nothing in comparison to the ballot or the right to vote, for with all of his wealth and without it, those who make laws to govern him without his consent, and those who rule over him as though he was still a slave and not a free-man, will continue to laugh and mock at him."

Therefore, if the United States was justified in waging a war against Spain to compel it to remove its iron heel of oppression from the necks of the Cubans, the leaders of the Afro-American race would be perfectly justified in enlisting the aid and sympathy of Japan or some other strong foreign power to wage an unrelenting warfare upon this nation for the sole purpose of compelling it to freely permit the Negro to enjoy his civil and political rights!

JULIUS F. TAYLOR AND WILLIAM H. CLARK INDUCED MAYOR EDWARD F. DUNNE TO SELECT A COLORED MAN AS A MEMBER OF THE NEW CHARTER COMMITTEE.

On or about the middle of last November Edward H. Wright, Col. Edward H. Morris, Robert Lincoln Taylor, and a few other Colored men called on Mayor Dunne, with a view of inducing him to appoint Dr. Allen A. Wesley as a member of the New City Charter Committee.

The morning following the visit of these distinguished gentlemen to Mayor Dunne, Julius F. Taylor and William H. Clark called on his Honor for the purpose of inducing him to select a nameless Colored man as a member of the New Charter Committee, and when his name was mentioned, Mayor Dunne declared he "had never heard of him," and when Mr. Clark and the writer assured him that this nameless Colored man had delivered several speeches for him, and had worked for his election as Mayor of Chicago, on receiving that information, and after being warmly urged by Julius F. Taylor to select him, Mayor Dunne then and there entered his name in his little red book, and this nameless Colored man was chosen to represent the Afro-Americans residing in Chicago, on the Charter Committee.

Then after Mr. Clark, and myself, had succeeded in having this great honor conferred upon him, we ran his cut in the columns of The Broad Ax, and praised him up as being one of the best writers and race-loving men in this country, which is evident that



MRS. CARRIE WARNER.

One of the Most Successful and Wide-awake Afro-American Business Women in Chicago, who for More than Four years Has Successfully Conducted Elegant Chopsticks and Manicure Parlors at 182 State Street.

we entertain not the least bit of ill-feeling against this nameless Colored man, who has never been in a position to confer the slightest favor upon the writer.

OHIO STATE COLORED EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION.

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 23, 1906.—The Ohio State Colored Educational and Industrial Exposition will begin here Saturday, August 25th, running until September 1st, the principal addresses being delivered by Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks, Governor A. L. Harris and Booker T. Washington. The exercises will begin with a review of the Ninth Battalion, the Colored troops of the Ohio National Guard, by the Governor of the State and other distinguished visitors. P. W. Chavers, editor of the Columbus Standard, the General Director of the Exposition, and George W. Hays, President of the Board of Managers, will make short addresses on the opening day, outlining the purposes of the Exposition and giving its history.

Other addresses will be delivered during the week, on Sunday, August 26th, Woman's Day; Monday, August 27th, Business Men's Day; Tuesday, August 28th, Educational Day; August 29th, Ohio Day; August 30th, Military Day; August 31st, Field Day. Among the speakers will be Prof. W. E. B. DuBois, Atlanta University; President Joshua H. Jones, Wilberforce University; Prof. J. W. Gilbert, Paine College, Augusta, Ga.; Senator J. B. Foraker, Mayor Badger of Columbus, Congressman Nicholas Longworth, Mrs. Mary Church-Terrell, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Carrie Clifford, Cleveland, O.; Mrs. Hattie Hall-King, Columbus, O.; Horace D. Slater and others.

One of the principal features of the Exposition will be the exhibits of various articles of manufacture, art and handicraft produced by the Colored people of the State of Ohio. The famous Norwood Dog Kennels will have on exhibition about thirty dogs, all pedigree stock, some having taken first prizes at various State fairs; exhibits from a Colored buggy manufacturing company, a bicycle and motor cycle manufacturing plant, work produced by the only Colored gold melter in the world, plows, fancy work and various other classes of exhibits will be shown.

The movement will be made permanent, an opportunity being given the

prominent Colored people from all over the State to participate.—Horace D. Slater, General Newspaper Correspondent.

WHO NEXT?

It seems to be the proper thing for President Roosevelt's Cabinet Officers to deliver themselves upon the Negro's status. First came Mr. Root's famous Union League speech declaring that Reconstruction legislation—Negro citizenship and the amendments to the constitution enforcing and protecting the same, were failures. When Mr. Root thus delivered himself the entire country asked if he was speaking his sentiments or those of his chief.

When Mr. Taft went before the ill-White Republican state convention of N. C., and told the white men of the South, that there was no longer any excuse for the cry of Negro domination for the Republican Party neither judicially nor legislatively was going to interfere with the question of Southern Disfranchisement—again, the same question is this the sentiment of Secretary Taft or is he speaking the sentiments of the President?

When Mr. Bonaparte, Secretary of the Navy, gently lambasted the Negro before the Young People's Christian and Educational Congress at Washington, a few days back, on account of his sloth and profligacy, when he told his audience how the Indian had been pushed to the wall and crushed against it, and warned the Negro that a like fate awaited him—again the question arose—Is this Bonaparte's or Roosevelt's sentiments?

May be, by the time each one of the Cabinet Officers has had his say at the Negro, the Negro may awake and set about doing something to recover his citizenship and to prevent his being crushed out of existence against the white man's wall of prejudice and race hate.—The St. Luke Herald, Richmond, Va.

Last Saturday morning Editor and Mrs. J. L. Thompson and their beautiful little daughter Miss Enola, Des Moines, Iowa, who returned to their home Monday morning after a more than delightful visit with their friends in this city, called on the editor and Mrs. Taylor. Miss Enola is just as bright and as sweet as she can be, and Mrs. Thompson is a charming lady to meet, and Editor Thompson, who is one of our oldest and warmest friends in the newspaper world, is a race man to the backbone.